

Message Text

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ACTION ST-01

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R 180755Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1255

UNCLAS JIDDA 3490

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASUP, USSAEC, AFSP

SUBJECT: HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT

REF: (A) JIDDA 3138; (B) STATE 111933

1. REF A SENT ON BEHALF USREP-RIYADH GSO-DESIGNATE JOHN ZEIGLER WHO, WITH EMBASSY SUPPORT, IS ENDEAVORING TO PLAN AHEAD FOR INFLUX OF AMERICANS BEING ASSIGNED SAUDI ARABIA UNDER JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION AUSPICES.

2. PROJECTED NEED OF 150 HOUSEHOLD SETS ANTICIPATES REQUIREMENTS THROUGH FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 10, 1976.

3. APPRECIATE GREATLY ST'S USUAL FAST RESPONSE AND OFFER OF ASSISTANCE.

4. FURNISHINGS ORDERED FOR JOINT COMMISSION BEING FUNDED FROM SPECIAL TRUST FUND UNDER DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY CONTROL. LEWIS BOWDEN, FSO ON DETAIL TO TREASURY AND SERVING AS DEPUTY FOR SAUDI ARABIAN AFFAIRS IN OFFICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY PARSKY, IS DIRECTING THIS EFFORT AND COORDINATING ACTIONS IN WASHINGTON. SUGGEST THAT HE BE APPRISED OF INTEREST OF AMERICAN FIRMS TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT.

5. UPPERMOST IN ANY DECISION TO PROCURE FROM U.S. MUST BE WEIGHED THE TIME LAG IN SHIPPING ITEMS TO SAUDI ARABIA. EMBASSY IS EXPERIENCING DELAYS FROM 12 TO 16 MONTHS ON HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT FROM TIME ORDER IS UNCLASSIFIED

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PLACED UNTIL RECEIPT OF GOODS HERE.

6. SOME OF THE LARGER U.S. CORPORATIONS DOING BUSINESS
HERE HAVE FOUND IT PRUDENT AND ESSENTIAL TO CHARTER
AIRCRAFT FOR LARGE ONE-TIME SHIPMENTS FROM U.S. BELIEVE
THAT THIS ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY TREASURY ALSO.

7. OTHER ALTERNATIVE IS TO SHIP VIA SURFACE TO EUROPE AND TRUCK
SHIPMENTS OVERLAND ON THROUGH BILL OF LADING. PORT
CONGESTION AT BOTH BEIRUT AND JIDDA DISCOURAGES USE OF
CONVENTIONAL METHODS OF SURFACE SHIPMENTS UNLESS TIME IS
OF NO IMPORTANCE. TRANSIT TIME OF IN-BOND TRUCK SHIPMENTS
FROM ENGLAND TAKE ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

8. EMBASSY HOPES THAT NEA/EX WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF STOCKS
OF FURNISHINGS MENTIONED REF B AND ARRANGE FOR PROCUREMENT
AGAINST PURCHASE ORDERS SUBMITTED BY EMBASSY IN APRIL
FOR ITS OWN EXPANSION REQUIREMENTS AND WHICH ARE BEING
HELD BY THE BUREAU IN ANTICIPATION OF RELEASE OF YEAR-END
FUNDS.

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